Barbados April 20th 1859

W L Garrison Esq,

My Dear Friend,

&c

The Liberator has reached me at irregular intervals since my return from the States, together with the Standard: and I have read with profound interest the information given me in their columns concerning the monster evil of your country, and the efforts of those noble spirits who have courage to brave the reproach and scorn of the multitude, in the attempt to get rid of the national guilt and shame of slavery, break every yoke, and let the oppressed go free. I luxuriated in the efforts of the Soiree in the Music Hall at Boston, and the proceedings of the Annual Meeting in Syracuse: and it required but a slight effort of the imagination to bring these scenes before me, as they must have appeared to you who were privileged to look upon, and take part in, them. May God, the Lover of all oppression, and the friend of the oppressed, speed your work of faith and labour of love to an early triumph. The cause you are identified with must be ultimately successful, for it is founded in Equity, and Truth, and Righteousness: and I trust that day is not so far distant but that you, my dear Sir, who have suffered so much undeserved obloquy and persecution, will take part in celebrating the final overthrow, in America, of the most atrocious System of cruelty and wrong with which our World has ever been cursed.

I send £10 as a small contribution to the funds of the Massachusetts Anti Slavery Society.

In all my congregations I have taken an opportunity of speaking upon American slavery: and recently, at a public Meeting, with the

Governor, Mr. Brooks, in the claim, I spoke of the good service which his letter had done in strengthening the hands of the friends of the colored race, and refuting the false statements of the pro-slavery press concerning the results of emancipation in the West Indies: & as Mr. Brooks took the opportunity of re-asserting his conviction, obtained by full and careful investigation of the entire subject, that free labour is immensely more profitable than slavery both to the master and the labourer; nor is there, I believe, an individual in this island who will venture to call it in question.

Mr Brooks left Barbados, two or three weeks ago, for Canada & the States. It is possible he will be in Boston, and perhaps you may be able to obtain his personal testimony on the comparative merits of the two kinds of labour. And his official position, as Governor in Chief of several of these Colonies, gives him facilities for obtaining the most perfect information which few persons can possess.

Since my return, Mr. Prescod, an intelligent coloured gentleman, connected with the press in this island, has been returned to the Colonial Legislature as one of the representatives of Bridgetown City. Mr Prescod was once in the Legislature before, where he exercises a considerable amount of influence.

On the 19th of last month we laid the corner stone of the "New England School", and it is rapidly advancing to completion. I am making arrangements for the early commencement of "the Canada school". I am happy to say I have the prospect of completing my school extension scheme, on a scale somewhat enlarged since my visit to America, although the Legislature here refused to make a grant in aid. Provision will thus be made for the education of fourteen hundred children, chiefly of the colored race; & who will be largely indebted to the friends of liberty on your side of the Atlantic for the substantial aid rendered to them by this movement. I have often called to mind, & when looking upon the schools and congregations under my charge, the remark you made at Abington, concerning the improved physical appearance of the coloured people of these islands since emancipation. It is strictly true. The European type of countenance is becoming

so prevalent, that the Road Afrcan features are seldom met with, except in those elderly persons who passed the meridian of life under the curse of Slavery.

I am happy to see that Miss Remond has commenced her Lectures in England under such favourable circumstances. England wants information on the subject of American Slavery; not communicated by pamphlets & newspapers, for these are not so accessible to the masses as they are in America, but in the form of Lectures and public addresses; and I am persuaded that it will not be difficult to awaken the sympathies and enthusiasm of the nation in opposition to the untold horrors and atrocities of American Slavery as effectually as they were aroused concerning Slavery in these colonies twenty eight years ago.

The assize court for this Island closed its quarterly sitting a few days ago, leaving only 26 cases for trial, and none of these of a very serious character. This, for a population of nearly 140,000, seven eighths of whom are black and colored, does not show a large proportion of crime. I doubt if you could find any English county, or American city, with as large a population, exhibiting a criminal Calendar so light. I mention the fact that if you think it right to do so you may give it currency for the information of those who have been deceived into the belief that these emancipated British colonies are rapidly becoming overrun with barbarism and crime.

Please present my kind remembrances to all friends especially Mrs Walcutt & Nell. Praying that you may be abundantly sustained and blessed in your philanthropic labors.

I am

My Dear Sir

Very truly Yrs

Henry Bleby.

N B. I have sent in a package addressed to the care of Mr Rand of the Liverpool Herald a small token of remembrance for Mr Phillips & myself a rattan for Mr Garrison which is all the same. It is a glove box with 40 specimens of Jamaica wood & made by one of the class of whom you are the devoted & indomitable friend. HB.

Rev. Henry Bleby,

Barbadoes, April 20, 1859